

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A device for mounting a cord on a gutter and similar hard to reach structures comprising:

a hanger clip having a cord retainer and a first bight, said first bight configured to ~~at least one of clip to two opposing substantially vertical surfaces defining the structure and suspend said hanger clip with said first bight;~~ and

an elongated staff for installing and removing said hanger clip, said elongated staff having a lock feature disposed at one end of said elongated staff to engage a corresponding mating feature extending from said hanger clip for releasably holding said hanger clip, such that when the ~~two sets of~~ features are engaged, said hanger clip is temporarily and securely held onto said elongated staff when one of installing and removing said hanger clip to and from the structure from below the structure, wherein disengagement of the ~~two sets of~~ features occurs by rotation of said elongated staff about an axis defining said elongated staff.

2. (original) The device of claim 1, further comprising a member configured to simulate one of an icicle and a decorative figure, said member extending from said hanger clip to said corresponding mating feature.

3. (original) The device of claim 2, wherein said member configured to simulate said icicle is formed of two generally planar plates defined by tapered sides intersecting one another along centerlines defining each and defined with said tapered sides substantially normal to each other.

4. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said hanger clip is formed of extruded plastic.

5. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said hanger clip is configured substantially as an S hook defined by saida first bight configured to fit over a

gutter lip and contour to at least a bight portion in a gutter and a second bight having said cord retainer.

6. (original) The device of claim 5, wherein said first bight of said S hook is configured to extend below said second bight of said S hook to clip against an inside surface defining said leading edge of said gutter.

7. (original) The device of claim 6, wherein said first bight of said S hook is configured generally wider than a remaining portion of said hanger clip and extends below said second bight of said S hook to provide a resilient bias against an inside surface defining said leading edge of said gutter.

8. (original) The device of claim 6, wherein said first bight terminates in an open flare configured to allow said gutter lip therethrough.

9. (original) The device of claim 5, wherein said second bight is configured so as to accommodate at least one cord therethrough.

10. (currently amended) The device as described in claim 1, wherein said hanger clip is configured to specifically contour around a gutter lip and to at least one of two opposing surfaces defining a bight in ~~asaid~~ leading edge defining said gutter.

11. (currently amended) The device as described in claim 1, wherein ~~said two sets of retaining~~ the features engage in a direction along said axis defining said elongated staff via a complimentary lockable profile on each of the ~~two set of~~ features, such that rotation of one of the ~~two sets of~~ features provides a lockable profile orientation to keep said hanger clip securely and temporarily engaged onto said elongated staff while limited rotation of one of the ~~two sets of retaining~~ features relative to the other disengages the same.

12. (original) The device of claim 11, wherein said limited rotation is substantially less than 180° of rotation about said axis.

13. (original) The device of claim 1, wherein said cord retainer is configured as a spiral configured to retain at least one cord.

14. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said hanger clip and said elongated staff are engaged by the ~~two sets of~~ features as a locking means, to selectively and temporarily lock the hanger clip at a desired rotation angle relative to said elongated staff and about said axis.

15. (original) The device of claim 14, wherein said locking means is comprised of a complimentary configured lockable feature combination, wherein when a complimentary profile of each feature is aligned with the other essentially coincident with said axis of rotation via rotation thereof about said axis, said device may be disengaged from said elongated staff via translation in a direction corresponding to said axis.

16. (original) The device of claim 15, wherein when said complimentary profile of said each feature is misaligned with the other upon respective rotation of either essentially coincident with said axis of rotation, said device is engaged with said elongated staff and translation in a direction corresponding to said axis is prohibited.

17. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said hanger clip is operably suspended from one of ~~the~~a gutter and a tree branch.

18. (currently amended) A method for mounting a cord on a gutter and similar hard to reach structures comprising the steps of:

configuring a hanger clip having a cord retainer and a first bight, said first bight configured to ~~at least one of clip to two opposing substantially vertical surfaces defining the structure and~~ suspend said hanger clip with said first bight;

using an elongated staff for installing and removing said hanger clip, said elongated staff having a lock feature disposed at one end of said elongated staff; and

engaging a corresponding mating feature extending from said hanger clip with said lock feature for releasably holding said hanger clip, such that when the ~~two sets of~~ features are engaged, said hanger clip is temporarily and securely held onto said elongated staff when one of installing and removing said hanger clip to and from the structure~~said vertical surfaces~~ from below the structure~~said vertical surfaces~~, wherein disengagement of the ~~two sets of~~ features occurs by rotation of said elongated staff about an axis defining said elongated staff.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

configuring a member to simulate one of an icicle and a decorative figure, said member extending from said hanger clip to said corresponding mating feature, and

configuring said corresponding mating feature to simulate one of a water drop and a corresponding ornamental figure extending from said member.

20. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein said configuring said member to simulate said icicle is formed of two generally planar plates defined by tapered sides intersecting one another along centerlines defining each and defined with said tapered sides substantially normal to each other.

21. (new) A device comprising:

a hanger clip having a cord retainer and a first bight; and

an elongated staff for installing and removing the hanger clip, the staff having a lock feature disposed at one end to engage a corresponding mating feature extending from the hanger clip, such that when the features are engaged, the hanger clip is temporarily and securely held onto the staff when one of installing and removing the hanger clip to and from the structure from below the structure, and wherein disengagement of the features occurs by rotation of the staff about an axis defining the elongated staff.